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## Department of Toxic Substances Control

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### NOTICE OF DRAFT REMOVAL ACTION WORKPLAN AND 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE CALENERGY GEOTHERMAL FACILITIES, CALIPATRIA, CA

#### What Is Being Proposed?

A proposed cleanup plan to excavate, remove and transport arsenic and lead contaminated soil at the CalEnergy Geothermal Facilities (CalEnergy) is available for public review and comment. The proposed cleanup plan, called a draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) was developed for the 4,470-acre site located in Imperial County, west of Calipatria. The draft RAW describes the investigation conducted, investigation results, and proposed cleanup plans in greater detail. Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a draft Negative Declaration has been prepared because the proposed removal activities will not have an adverse environmental impact. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) determined there are chemicals present from past operations at the site that are above DTSC's protective standards. DTSC requires an overall cleanup plan be developed and implemented for the site to ensure long-term public health and safety.

At the CalEnergy facility, geothermal (steam) energy is used to generate electrical power by bringing superheated brine from the geothermal resource area to the surface, flashing a portion to steam, and injecting the spent brine and condensate back into the geothermal reservoir. Prior to injection, the majority of the insoluble solids are removed from the brine to minimize degradation of the injection wells. Typical activities at the geothermal facilities include generation of filter cake during preparation of brine for injection, temporary storage of brine in brine ponds, and maintenance of storage of piping equipment. During energy production, solids from the extracted geothermal fluids accumulate as scale in facility equipment and pipes, as sediments in brine ponds, and as filter cake at the clarifiers. During maintenance operations (including high pressure washing of the piping, removal of sediments from the brine ponds, and the removal of filter cake from the clarifiers), these solid scale sediment cake materials were released to on-site surface soils in the vicinity of these maintenance operations. Each of these activities contributed to arsenic and lead contaminated soil impacts on the site at levels that require further cleanup to protect site workers, human health and the environment.

#### Why This Notice and How You Can Participate

We want to know what you think of the draft RAW planned for this site. The 30-day public comment period begins **December 16th, 2010 and ends January 17th, 2011**. Public comments must be postmarked or e-mailed no later than **January 17th, 2011**, and sent to: Ms. Maryam Tasnif-Abbasi, DTSC Project Manager, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630-4732, E-mail: [mtasnif@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:mtasnif@dtsc.ca.gov). The draft RAW and draft Negative Declaration is available for public review at the Information Repositories listed below:

Meyer Memorial Library  
105 S. Lake Avenue  
Calipatria, CA 92233  
(760) 348-2630

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630-4732  
(714) 474-5337  
Please contact Ms. Julie Johnson at the number above  
to make an appointment.

#### Who to Contact For More Information

For questions about the CalEnergy Geothermal Facilities project, please contact Ms. Maryam Tasnif-Abbasi, DTSC Project Manager at (714) 484-5489 or Stacey Lear, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (714) 484-5354 or toll free 1-888-877-5378. Notice to Hearing Impaired: You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD) or send a request to contact Stacey Lear at the number above regarding the CalEnergy Geothermal Facilities site.